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Agenda item 76

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1966

Revised estimates under sections 1, 3, 5 and 10 resulting
from the draft resolution adopted by the Sixth Committee
at its 852nd meeting, on 14 October 1965

Seventeenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions to the General Assembly at its
twentieth session

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the Secretary-General's request^{1/} for additional credits under sections 1, 3, 5 and 10 of the 1966 budget estimates in the amount of \$27,000, resulting from a draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee for adoption by the General Assembly, that the International Law Commission hold a four-week winter session in Monaco from 3 to 28 January 1966.
2. The Secretary-General reports that the Government of the Principality of Monaco has invited the International Law Commission to hold this session in Monaco, and, in accordance with the provision of General Assembly resolution 1202 (XII), has expressed its willingness to defray the additional costs involved.
3. In its report to the General Assembly at its twentieth session on the budget estimates for 1966,^{2/} the Advisory Committee noted that the increased provision of \$51,000 for the International Law Commission included \$35,800 for an additional four-week session to be held at Geneva, to enable the Commission to

^{1/} A/C.5/1041.

^{2/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twentieth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/6007, para. 132).

complete its study of the law of treaties and of special missions. Approval for this session had been requested and provision made in the 1965 estimates, but the session was deferred by the Commission to enable those of its members who also represented their Governments at the General Assembly to attend the resumed nineteenth session in the first months of 1965.

4. The Advisory Committee ascertained that convening of the four-week session in Monaco would require a total of 47 servicing staff, including 21 staff assigned from the Geneva Office, and 26 recruited under temporary assistance provisions. Holding of the meetings at Geneva would require a total of 39 servicing staff, including 19 to be recruited from temporary assistance funds. In addition, the Committee was informed that four substantive officers from Headquarters would participate in the proceedings irrespective of the site of the meetings.

5. While recognizing that the Government of the Principality of Monaco has agreed to reimburse the additional costs involved, the Advisory Committee would point out that there are a number of immeasurable or non-assessable elements of additional costs related to bodies meeting away from their established headquarters. In this particular case, since it is the practice of the International Law Commission to hold only one meeting a day, a considerable part of the services of certain of the language staff would be lost to the Organization, whereas, if the Commission met at Geneva, the staff could undertake additional assignments. It should also be noted that both the New York and the Geneva Offices would be deprived of the full services of the substantive staff assigned to the Monaco meetings. Further, the need to ship reference books and documents required for the meetings to Monaco would deprive the Geneva and New York Offices of such reference material during the period of the meetings.

6. The Advisory Committee would also draw attention to operative paragraph 2 of resolution 1202 (XII) by which the General Assembly decided, inter alia, that as a general principle, meetings of United Nations bodies should be held at the established headquarters of the bodies concerned. Furthermore, notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2 (e) of that resolution,^{3/} the Committee is of the

^{3/} Paragraph 2 (e) of resolution 1202 (XII) reads as follows: "Meetings may be held away from the established headquarters of any body in other cases where a Government issuing an invitation for a meeting to be held within its territory has agreed to defray, after consultation with the Secretary-General as to their nature and possible extent, the additional costs involved;"

opinion that it is implicit in the resolution that meetings of bodies should be held away from their established headquarters only when such meetings would clearly be in the best interests of the Organization.

7. With regard to the over-all financial implications of holding the meetings at Monaco, the Advisory Committee questions the need for a total of forty-seven servicing staff as compared with thirty-nine such staff required for the same meetings at Geneva, and considers that, should the General Assembly approve the recommendation of the International Law Commission and the Sixth Committee, some savings could be effected under section 3, temporary assistance, and section 5, travel and subsistence of staff transferred from Geneva and Headquarters.

8. The Advisory Committee notes that the estimated expenditures submitted by the Secretary-General and any further expenses which might arise in connexion with the provision of local facilities and services which have not been included in the estimates would also be met by the Government of the Principality of Monaco, and that the full amount of the reimbursement for all costs would be credited to miscellaneous income section 3 for 1966.
